

Attorney's Docket No. K&A 00-0122

Client's Docket No. LIN365

APPLICATION

FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

BE IT KNOWN THAT I, **MICHELLE D. CASTRO**, a citizen of
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have invented a new and useful
BRA STRAP RETAINER of which the following is a specification:

BRA STRAP RETAINER

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

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The present invention relates to a bra strap coupler and more particularly pertains to a new bra strap retainer for preventing the straps from falling from the user's shoulders.

15 Description of the Prior Art

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The use of a bra strap coupler is known in the prior art. More specifically, a bra strap coupler heretofore devised and utilized are known to consist basically of familiar, expected and obvious structural configurations, notwithstanding the myriad of designs encompassed by the crowded prior art which have been developed for the fulfillment of countless objectives and requirements.

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Known prior art includes U.S. Patent No. 5,733,004; U.S. Patent No. 2,140,164; U.S. Patent No. Des. 363,900; U.S. Patent No. 2,278,153; U.S. Patent No. 2,595,139; U.S. Patent No. 3,529,329; and U.S. Patent No. 5,662,133.

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While these devices fulfill their respective, particular objectives and requirements, the aforementioned patents do not

disclose a new bra strap retainer. The inventive device includes a retaining member having an elongate main portion and opposite end portions which are adapted to keep straps of a bra on a user's back in proximate relationship to one another.

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In these respects, the bra strap retainer according to the present invention substantially departs from the conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus primarily developed for the purpose of preventing the
10 straps from falling from the user's shoulders.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known
15 types of bra strap coupler now present in the prior art, the present invention provides a new bra strap retainer construction wherein the same can be utilized for preventing the straps from falling from the user's shoulders.

20 The general purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater detail, is to provide a new bra strap retainer which has many of the advantages of the bra strap coupler mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new bra strap retainer which is not anticipated, rendered obvious,
25 suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art bra strap coupler, either alone or in any combination thereof.

To attain this, the present invention generally comprises a retaining member having an elongate main portion and opposite end
30 portions which are adapted to keep straps of a bra on a user's back in proximate relationship to one another.

There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the invention in detail, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited in its application to the details of construction and to the arrangements of the components set forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways. Also, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting.

As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence

of the technical disclosure of the application. The abstract is neither intended to define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it intended to be limiting as to the scope of the invention in any way.

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It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new bra strap retainer which has many of the advantages of the bra strap coupler mentioned heretofore and many novel features that result in a new bra strap retainer which is not anticipated, rendered
10 obvious, suggested, or even implied by any of the prior art bra strap coupler, either alone or in any combination thereof.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a new bra strap retainer which may be easily and efficiently manufactured
15 and marketed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new bra strap retainer which is of a durable and reliable construction.

20 An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new bra strap retainer which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to the consuming public, thereby making such bra strap retainer
25 economically available to the buying public.

Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new bra strap retainer which provides in the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of the advantages thereof, while
30 simultaneously overcoming some of the disadvantages normally associated therewith.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new bra strap retainer for preventing the straps from falling from the user's shoulders.

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Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new bra strap retainer which includes a retaining member having an elongate main portion and opposite end portions which are adapted to keep straps of a bra on a user's back in proximate relationship to one another.

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Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new bra strap retainer that essentially pulls the straps on the user's back together.

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Even still another object of the present invention is to provide a new bra strap retainer that is easy and convenient to wind the straps disposed upon the user's back through the bra strap retainer.

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These together with other objects of the invention, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the invention, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a better understanding of the invention, its operating advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be made to the accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated preferred embodiments of the invention.

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30 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is

given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevational view of a new bra strap retainer
5 according to the present invention and being shown in use.

Figure 2 is a detailed side elevational view of the present invention.

10 Figure 3 is an edge elevational view of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to
15 Figures 1 through 3 thereof, a new bra strap retainer embodying the principles and concepts of the present invention and generally designated by the reference numeral 10 will be described.

As best illustrated in Figures 1 through 3, the bra strap
20 retainer 10 generally comprises a retaining member 25 having an elongate main portion 11 and opposite end portions 12,13 which are adapted to keep straps 22,23 of a bra on a user's back 24 in proximate relationship to one another. Each of the end portions 12,13 includes prongs 14-17 integrally extends outwardly therefrom
25 and is spaced from the elongate main portion 11 thus defining a slot 18,21 therebetween. The prongs 14-17 are essentially disposed in a plane with the elongate main portion 11 with the prongs 14-17 of each of the end portions 12,13 extending outwardly from opposite side edges of the elongate main portion 11. Each of the prongs 14-
30 17 of a respective end portion 12,13 is curved and directed toward one of the prongs 14-17 of the other end portion 12,13. Each of the prongs 14-17 has an outer portion which is essentially disposed

parallel to the elongate main portion 11 with the prongs 14-17 and the elongate main portion 11 being adapted to retain the straps 22,23 of the bra therebetween and with the straps 22,23 being wound through the slots 18-21 between the prongs 14-17 and the elongate main portion 11. One of the end portions 12,13 is essentially C-shaped, and the other of the end portions 12,13 is essentially an inverted C-shape. The retaining member 25 has a length of approximately 1 inch and a thickness of approximately 1/8 inch with each end portion having a width of approximately 1 inch.

In use, the user takes a portion of one of the straps 22,23 disposed upon one's back 24 and winds it through the slots 18-21 between the elongate main portion 11 and the prongs 14-17 of one of the end portions 12,13, and then takes a portion of the strap 22,23 disposed upon one's back 24 and winds it through the slots 18,21 between the elongate main portion 11 and the prongs 14-17 of the other end portion 12,13 to essentially bring the two straps 22,23 in close proximity of one another upon the user's back 24 to prevent the straps 22,23 falling down from one's shoulders.

As to a further discussion of the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and

described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of
5 the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous
modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the
art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction
and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable
modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the
10 scope of the invention.